Proposal for routing funds through DRDA

2184. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for routing the funds to the Panchayats through District Rural Development Agencies (DRDA);

(b) if so; the details thereof;

(c) whether funds are allotted to DRDA for rural development under various heads; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the fund allotted and spent under various heads during the last three years, year-wise, category-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) At present the funds of Ministry of Rural Development are being routed to the Panchayats through District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) under the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY).

(c) and (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

LPG Agencies in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra

†2185. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies allotted in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) the target of allotment of such agencies that was fixed for the said period in the said States;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to meet the target?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) During the last three years, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have allotted 334 LPG distributorships in Uttar Pradesh and 217 LPG distributorships in Maharashtra.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) OMCs set up LPG distributorships at viable locations as per their commercial considerations and it is a continuous process. State-wise targets for setting up of distributorships are not fixed by OMCs in a given year.

Subsidy on LPG and Kerosene

2186. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to continue providing subsidy on both LPG and Kerosene till March, 2007;

(b) what is the present quantum of subsidy being provided both for LPG and Kerosene;

(c) whether the oil marketing companies have sought for sharing of the subsidy burden by upstream companies like ONGC and GAIL; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The per unit Government subsidy on domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene during 2004-05 is Rs. 40.65/cylinder and Rs. 1.47/litre respectively. In addition, oil PSUs are sharing the burden of subsidizing these products.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) ONGC, GAIL and OIL have agreed to share the burden of under-recoveries of Oil Marketing Companies on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG.

Review of Fuel Pricing Policy

2187. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would review the fuel pricing policy;

(b) whether Government would impose control over the petroleum companies in view of the frequent and unwarranted increase of fuel prices;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and